The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities. The Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

DERA 2019: City of Tacoma – Refuse Collection Trucks Replacement Project

Under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), the EPA awarded the City of Tacoma a $542,684 grant with Fiscal Year 2019 funding. This grant will fund the replacement of diesel-powered trucks from the Solid Waste Management fleet to support reduced emissions and improve air quality in the City of Tacoma. The project will be implemented with a cost share of $1,007,842 from the City of Tacoma for a total project cost of $1,550,526.

What is the Project?
The City of Tacoma will replace four (4) older diesel-powered refuse collection trucks with four (4) new, compressed-natural gas-powered trucks. These trucks are part of the Solid Waste Management fleet and operate along city routes collecting either residential or commercial refuse. This project helps the City of Tacoma achieve the goals set forth in its Environmental Action Plan and support reduced diesel emissions and improved air quality within PM2.5 maintenance zones.

Why is this Project Important?
In the EPA’s 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment, the Puget Sound region ranked in the top 5% of the nation for potential cancer risk from air toxics, with diesel emissions identified as the predominant source of cancer risk in this area. These refuse truck replacements will result in diesel emission reductions in the City of Tacoma. This project maximizes health benefits by reducing diesel emissions generated in the collection of refuse in the City of Tacoma where a majority of neighborhood and business districts are within areas disproportionately impacted by emissions from goods movement.

What are the Estimated Environmental Benefits?
The replacement of these refuse collection trucks is projected to reduce the fleet’s annual diesel emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 0.376 tons, particulate matter 2.5 (PM$_{2.5}$) by 0.001 tons, hydrocarbons (HC) by 0.006 tons, and carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) by 12.959 tons. Over the lifetime of the vehicles, this will result in estimated cumulative emission reductions of 0.752 tons of NOx, 0.003 tons of PM$_{2.5}$, 0.011 tons of HC, and 241.917 tons of CO$_2$.

How is this Project Funded?
The West Coast Collaborative is a partnership between leaders from federal, tribal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast and is part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

Where can I find more information?
For more information on the West Coast Collaborative, please visit our website at: www.westcoastcollaborative.org. For more information about this project, please contact Sarah Frederick at frederick.sarah@epa.gov